

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Essay Category

Honorable Mention: “Proceed With Caution,” by Hanna Giles

“C’mon, it’ll be fine, really. I’ve got my permit and I’ve drove a lot so far. I’m really good, I promise,” my friend Michalyn told me, giving me a pleading gaze through the car window. My stomach churned with the guilt of not trusting my friend, but deep down in my gut I had an uneasy feeling about getting into the car. Michalyn’s old

her seatbelt's restriction, gave Miranda's neck serious whiplash. She stayed sitting as still as possible and when the police arrived shortly after, an ambulance ushered Miranda away on a gurney. My nerves were rattled and shocked, but physically there was no injury aside from a few bruises, and the same applied for Michalyn and Travis. In just a moment, we could have died...Yet we didn't;I thought. I could not stop thinking that if we were going faster, if we had hit the trees differently, or if there were another car on the road, we would not be standing there alive.

Every person has had experiences that have triggered personal emotions and resulted in the construction of beliefs that morph one's perspective on life, helping to shape the individual that they've become. My personal experience, getting into a car accident, has had many effects on my personal life. Instead of ignoring my gut instinct I now trust my own judgment. When something makes my stomach churn with uneasiness, I won't ignore it: instinct is usually right. This event has caused me to become more cautious and attentive. No longer will I ride in a vehicle when the driver is not licensed and experienced, even if the person is a friend or family member. Also, I will make personal safety of myself, as well as others, my own responsibility and as much as possible keep others focused on the road and surroundings while driving.

Rather than performing my daily activities in a trance-like routine, I take the time to study the happenings around me and actively watch for the subtle variations of daily life. I will notice

